

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Belgium

DATE DISTR. 26 January, 1949

SUBJECT Communist "Action Committee" at
25X1A2g Antwerp

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Dockworkers' Action Committee of Antwerp was formed by Communists and Trotskyites at the time of the first post-war dock strikes in 1946. Since the Action Committee made no effort to conceal its opposition to the policies of the B.T.B. (Belgian Transport Workers' Union) and the A.B.V.V. (General Belgian Association of Unions), the B.T.B. expelled the leaders of the Committee for insubordination in the summer of 1947. Although the Action Committee is controlled by the Communist Party and leaders of the Committee, such as Louis Philips and Frans van den Branden, take part in Communist-sponsored activities, the identity of the Committee appears to remain distinct from that of the Party in the minds of the dockworkers.
2. Before the sailing of the "American Judge" from Antwerp on 25 November 1948, Communist handbills were left in the quarters of the officers and crew. The text, which was edited and published by Felix van den Bergh, Communist Deputy for Antwerp in the Belgian Parliament, inveighed against capitalist warmongering, the Taft-Hartley Bill, and the proceedings against such American Communists as Foster and Dennis. More recently, Frans van den Branden placed in among the cargo of an American ship subversive tracts which he had received from Alber Deconinck, Political Secretary of the Antwerp Federation of the Belgian Communist Party. On the same occasion, he is reported to have painted a red hammer and sickle on a number of sacks of cement which were loaded for shipment to the United States.
3. There follows a list of Action Committee members with personal details such as are known to us:
 - a. Frans Van Den Branden; heads Action Committee; Communist; outstanding propagandist; frequently speaks at meetings; born 23 April 1914 in Antwerp; present address: 8 Terliststraat, Antwerp.
 - b. Louis Philips (Lodewijk); Secretary of Action Committee; likely Communist; distributes tracts and speaks at meetings; born 26 October 1912 in Antwerp; present address: 91 Rue van Kerckhoven, Antwerp.
 - c. Petrus Van Den Branden; Communist; lacks intelligence of brother Frans, but follows his lead; born 19 September 1905 in Antwerp; present address: 38 Rue Clara Snelling, Dourne.

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d. Josephus Van Dijk; Communist; active; propagandist; born 25 October 1886 in Vorselaar; present address: 27 Nikkelstraat, Antwerp.

e. Constant Mertens; Communist; speaker; born 18 October 1896; present address: 225 Tweemontstraat, Durne.

f. Pierre Coulemans; Communist; born 13 June 1919 in Borgerhout; present address: 97 Oordseweg, Ekeren.

g. Albert Wouters; Communist; active member of Committee; born 29 December 1904 at Borgerhout; present address: 49 van Peenestraat, Antwerp

h. Michel Brillo; reported non-Communist; no longer very active; born 31 May 1903 in Antwerp; present address: 27 Lange Zavelstraat, Antwerp.

6. The following Action Committee members were expelled from the B.T.B. in August, 1947:

a. Gustaaf Delanote; Communist; active Committee member; considered dangerous; born 11 August 1915 in Ronsbrugge; present address: 45 Kattenberg, Ekeren.

b. Cornel Brackmans; active; born 4 April 1899 in Antwerp; present address: 117 Brammstraat, Schoten.

c. Petrus Mees; Communist; very active; born 3 October 1912 in Antwerp; present address: 63 Louis Hendriksstraat, Schoten.

d. Jan Ceusters; active and dangerous; born 20 November 1903 in Antwerp; present address: 278 Luchtbal, Antwerp.

e. Frederik Van De Cruys; born 16 June 1913 in Antwerp; present address: 24 Lange Achteromstraat, Antwerp.

f. Frans Mous; Communist; may have withdrawn from Action Committee; born 1 May 1902 in Antwerp; present address: 107 Lange Slachterijstraat, Antwerp.

g. Elfredus Trommelen; reportedly no longer active; born 4 July 1904 in Antwerp; present address: 50 Rue Lamoriniere, Antwerp.

h. Hubert Van Dungenhem; moderate; not very active; born 25 April 1907 in Antwerp; present address: 143 Noord Schippersdok, Antwerp.

i. Joseph De Rijck; pre-war Communist; activity not apparent but probably operates behind the scenes; born 28 April 1899 in Tensche (Tamise).

5. Liaison between the Action Committee and the BCP is said to be maintained by Albert Minnebo, 33, living at 58 Lindenstraat, Burcht.

6. When Frans Van Den Branden was obliged to speak at a B.T.B. meeting in Antwerp early in 1946, the following Trotskyites withdrew from the Action Committee because they considered his act treacherous:

a. Pierre Dorremans; born 14 March 1890 in Antwerp; present address: 65 Handelstraat, Antwerp.

b. Ludovicus Victor; born 14 October 1903 in Antwerp; present address: 22 Spaarstraat, Antwerp.

c. Karel De Cock; born 11 November 1918 in Bournemouth, England; present address: 14 Eschenstraat, Antwerp.

7. Jan Baptist van Son, 32, in September, 1948 circulated a broadside which he had reportedly written, attacking Frans van den Branden for being a lackey of the Communists and defending the Trotskyite, Pierre Dorremans. Since this incident, van Son has apparently disassociated himself from the Action Committee.

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